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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance to Madagascar

Report of the Secretary-General

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
INTRODUCTION		1 - 4	3
I.	GENERAL SITUATION	5 - 15	3
II.	NATURE OF THE DISASTER	16 - 37	5
	A. Regions affected/impact	19 - 25	6
	B. Infrastructure	26 - 34	7
	C. Crops and grain inventories	35 - 36	8
	D. Water/sanitation	37	8
III.	NATIONAL RESPONSE	38 - 49	8
IV.	ACTION TAKEN BY DONORS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES	50 - 77	10
V.	ACTION TAKEN BY AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	78 - 85	14
VI.	COORDINATION	86 - 90	14

INTRODUCTION

1. From 13 January to 23 March 1994, Madagascar experienced an emergency situation resulting from several tropical cyclones; thus, from 13 January to 2 February 1994, the island suffered the effects of cyclones Daisy and Geralda. From this period to mid-April, when the present document was prepared, five other cyclones were forecast, two of which, Litanne and Nadia, actually struck the island, from 15 to 17 March and on 21 and 22 March. The damage caused by these cyclones has not yet been fully estimated.

2. Cyclones are part of the meteorology of the subregion; each year, during the rainy season, there is a major cyclone hazard throughout Malagasy territory. However, the 1994 season was marked by a large number of intense cyclone disturbances in close succession which were said to be linked to the seven-year cycle of large cyclones.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/234 of 10 February 1994, appealed for emergency assistance to Madagascar, requesting all States, as well as international organizations, to provide additional support, and the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the organizations of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Madagascar in bringing recovery efforts to a successful conclusion.

4. This report is an account of the mobilization of international and national assistance as part of that effort.

I. GENERAL SITUATION

5. The cyclone hazard is particularly serious in Madagascar because of the frequency of storms in the subregion (there were 387 tropical disturbances from 1911 to 1988, or an average of five per year) and climate changes which tend to have adverse effects. In addition, the torrential rains accompanying cyclones usually cause floods. The flood hazard is substantially increased by human activities which destroy the environment. Moreover, in addition to the natural parameters, the cumulative risk is intensified by factors linked to socio-economic vulnerability which aggravate the impact on disaster victims.

6. Madagascar is a continental island, the fourth largest in the world (587,041 km^2), whose approximately 12 million inhabitants speak the same language, Malagasy, and share the same culture. The country is endowed with rich physical diversity, a varied climate, endemic flora and fauna not found elsewhere, and substantial mineral wealth. Madagascar has the necessary social and material potential for rapid economic growth.

7. Nevertheless, the history of the past 20 years reveals an economic decline, marked by a drop of 40 per cent in per capita income during the period 1972-1992. Income is poorly distributed, and one third of families live in absolute poverty. The Human Development Report, 1993 ranked Madagascar one hundred twenty-eighth worldwide, out of 173 countries studied; life expectancy is around 50 years, and the infant mortality rate is 12 per cent. An economic reform programme supported by the Bretton Woods institutions was established in

the mid-1980s; the years 1988 to 1990 saw a modest growth in per capita gross domestic product (GDP). However, in 1991, widespread public dissatisfaction and strikes calling for political liberalization and an improvement in living conditions placed severe constraints on the economic reform process and discouraged private investors. From 1990 to 1991, donor disbursements were reduced by 18 per cent relative to their initial amounts and, from 1991 to 1992, per capita GDP fell 10 per cent. Thus, in 1993, the country experienced substantial imbalances between tax receipts and current accounts, as well as a balance-of-payments deficit; the external debt represented 12 per cent of GDP.

8. The new economic programme outlined during the Prime Minister's programme statement of 26 August 1993 was followed by the resumption of talks with the Bretton Woods institutions on a structural adjustment programme. A policy framework paper should make it possible to convene a consultative group meeting of donors in 1994 or early 1995, at which the Government's economic reform programme will be presented. This should also enable the International Monetary Fund to release funds under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, accompanied by a structural adjustment loan from the World Bank.

9. Madagascar's infrastructure is obsolete and inadequate. In combination, the size of the territory, the unevenness of the terrain, which makes the cost of improvements especially high, and the backlog in equipping the principal regional centres have made interregional communications very difficult and have meant that the country is generally underequipped in terms of basic infrastructure.

10. Roads, the main channels of communication, cover some 50,000 km, of which only 5,300 km are paved; they are not properly maintained, and are therefore virtually impassable during the rainy season.

11. Thus, the poor condition of rural roads disrupts the relationship between city and countryside, strengthening the reliance of rural areas on subsistence production. The dissemination of technology and the establishment of development projects are limited to areas within a radius of 50 km from the permanent main highways. In general, therefore, the enclave areas are vastly underequipped, and their isolation makes their inhabitants vulnerable to greater and greater insecurity; this usually leads to the abandonment of villages whose agricultural and pastoral potential has not yet been fully utilized. Thus, the distance between enterprises and production areas results in an irregular supply of inputs, making access to the international market and the development of the private sector relatively difficult.

12. The railway network is very antiquated, and the rolling stock wholly obsolete, resulting in mediocre service performances. The network comprises five main lines which are handicapped by the lack of interconnections: Antananarivo/Toamasina (Tananarive/East Coast) - 372 km, built in 1913; Moramanga/Ambatosoratra/Ambohindava - 174 km, in the direction of the Lake Alaotra region; Antananarivo/Antsirabe (Tananarive/Antsirabe) - 158 km, built in 1923, recently extended by about 7 km in the direction of Vinaninkarena/Ibity; Fianarantsoa/Manakara (Fianarantsoa/East Coast), built around 1936; Vodiala/Morarano (Moramanga/Lake Alaotra) - 19 km, serving mainly to transport the flow of chrome ore from the Andriamena deposit.

13. Health units in medical centres and public hospitals are characterized by the deterioration of health infrastructure and equipment, bedding, furniture and instruments. The secondary schools and universities built in the 1970s were later confronted by the difficulties of economic growth and by austerity measures which made it impossible to maintain buildings, produce basic educational and teaching materials, or maintain equipment.

14. The integration of an environmental focus into development, especially through the environmental charter, constitutes a major thrust of agricultural and tourism development strategies. The environmental plan of action, which is funded by a donor consortium, gives priority to protecting the biodiversity patrimony in connection with the development of peripheral areas of protected sites and controlling deforestation and the erosion of catchment areas.

15. However, basic natural resources are being exhausted because of deforestation and soil erosion, together with the devastation and loss of woodlands; the transformation of meadows and grazing land into cropland; the drying out of swampy areas and the loss of water-retaining wildlands; anarchic utilization of natural resources, and inappropriate agricultural methods, such as cultivation over burnt stubble.

II. NATURE OF THE DISASTER

16. Disasters have consisted of tropical cyclone disturbances with powerful cyclone winds and torrential rains, entailing devastation and major floods.

17. Each time, the force of the winds and the abundance of overflows have been of exceptional magnitude. Because of the state of communication channels and radio-telephone networks, as well as the persistence of cyclone disturbances, it has not been possible to gather, within satisfactory time-limits, all the necessary information on the damage caused; therefore, details will be provided at a later date.

18. Some localities in the faritany, or province, of Toamasina (i.e., Tamatave) have been struck three times, by Daisy, Geralda and Litanne, with each cyclone disturbance aggravating the previous damage and structural impairment:

(a) Daisy: 13-17 January; intensity of 5.5 degrees on the Dvorak scale; winds sustained for 10 minutes at a speed of 160 km/h with gusts of 250 km/h;

(b) Geralda: 2-4 February; intensity of 7 degrees on the Dvorak scale; winds sustained for 10 minutes at a speed exceeding 250 km/h with gusts of 350 km/h;

(c) Litanne: 15-17 March; centre: intensity of 19 degrees/48.4 F; vector: west-southwest, remaining stationary for several hours over the Vatomandry fivondranana (administrative region), weak gusts, heavy rain;

(d) Nadia: 21-22 March; intensity of 5.5 degrees on the Dvorak scale; winds of 170 km/h with gusts of 250 km/h;

(e) Floods: due to overflowing of watercourses and canals, rupture of embankments, etc.

A. Regions affected/impact

19. Cyclones have struck virtually all of Madagascar's six provinces, with special intensity in Toamasina. The localities listed below were on the paths of:

(a) Daisy: Vatomandry, Anosibe An'ala, Fandriana, Ambatofinandrahana, Beroroha, Ankazoabo, Toliara II, Ampanihy, Beloha, Brickaville, Antananarivo I and II;

(b) Geralda: Toamasina, Brickaville, Moramanga, Fenoarivo Be, Tsiroanomandidy, Antananarivo, Miandrivazo, Belon'itsiribihina; after leaving the territory and moving towards the Mozambique canal, the cyclone struck again on the south coast of Madagascar;

(c) Litanne: Tamatave, Brickaville, Vatomandry, Mahanoro, Antanambao, Manampotsy, Nosy Varika, Mananjary;

(d) Nadia: northeastern part of the island: Antsiranana, Vohemar, Sambava, Antalaha, Andapa, Maroantsetra, Ambilobe, Nosy Be, Ambanja, Bealanana.

20. The three cyclones Hollanda, Mariola and Odille were forecast and, fortunately, returned to sea without having struck Madagascar.

21. Some localities were struck two or three times within a period of two weeks or from mid-January to mid-March. Overall, some 250,000 localities were damaged by either winds or overflows, and some 250,000 persons suffered the effects of the cyclones, out of a population of 5,423,119 in the regions concerned.

22. According to a report of the National Aid Council dated 28 February, Daisy and Geralda alone were responsible for 231 deaths, 73 disappearances, 267 cases of injury and a total of 356,951 instances of damage. Nadia left another 4 dead and 8 injured and half the population of the Vohemar region homeless. The report also indicates that 237,409 ha of crops were devastated and that 12,583 head of cattle, 625 goats, 807 pigs and 111 sheep disappeared. An assessment by the Ministry of State for Agriculture and Rural Development gives higher figures, especially for crops, with details on the type of crop: rice, cassava, coffee, maize, etc. These data will probably be reexamined following the multi-donor agricultural impact assessment mission.

23. Because of the difficulties of communication and access and the lack of means of assessment, there will be fuller knowledge at a later date of the damage caused by Litanne and Nadia, in particular.

24. Since Litanne struck, floods and new damage have already occurred in Brickaville and its surrounding areas, especially damage to the rice fields and buildings, even relatively stable ones.

25. In addition to these data on persons suffering injury or loss, the situation is as follows:

B. Infrastructure

1. Roads

26. The entire road infrastructure was affected to varying degrees by the torrential rains. Over 20 national highways and an incalculable number of secondary roads were damaged, cutting off Antananarivo, the capital, from ports and supply areas. Land subsidence, a dozen or so collapsed bridges, holes, mudslides, fallen trees and landslides disrupted traffic and cut off many localities. Many of the sections which "held up" are vulnerable and constitute an additional hazard of aggravated damage.

2. Ports/energy/coast/embankments

27. Ports/energy: Tamatave, the principal port, was struck by three cyclones and its activities were disrupted. The country's only refinery was seriously affected and will not resume operating for four to six months. This refinery and the factory for SOLIMA lubricating products suffered major damage. The refinery's main furnace and boilers were destroyed. The analysing equipment, mixing units, storage installations and other laboratory facilities are out of commission. Water and electricity were cut off for several days in Tamatave, Brickaville, Moramanga and Diego.

28. In Mananjary, power plants were flooded; the power supply was cut off in Fianarantsoa, Ambohimahasoa, Ifanadiana, Vangaindrano, Betroka, Manakara, Vohemar and Antalaha.

29. The coast, especially in the Tamatave region, suffered major erosion; while this might have preceded the cyclones, it raises again the serious question of protecting a number of points along the Malagasy coast. An embankment on the Ikopa river was ruptured upstream of Antananarivo, and part of the plain was submerged.

3. Railways

30. The Moramanga/Lake Alaotra segment, which is the island's rice granary, the Moramanga/Brickaville segment of the Tamatave/Antananarivo main line, and the Fianarantsoa/Antananarivo railway were damaged.

31. In particular, the Moramanga/Brickaville main line was damaged in over 200 places, with subsidence and holes 10 to 50 metres in depth, leaving tracks suspended in the air in several places. The damage to the railways, especially over the Andasibe/Brickaville segment, is all the more serious in that this main line is the principal route for supplying fuel to the capital.

32. Repairs have progressed, and the railway will be usable sooner than anticipated, but will run relatively slowly.

4. Social and health infrastructure, administrative buildings, dwellings

33. In addition to the thousands of dwellings that were destroyed, many public buildings, especially schools, health units, administrative buildings and markets, were damaged; roofs were torn off, doors and windows blown out - the devastation was total.

5. Communications

34. Forty per cent of telecommunications traffic was disrupted on the east coast. This, in addition to the chronic communications failures, makes it even more difficult to gather information on the situation in remote parts of the country.

C. Crops and grain inventories

35. The violent winds and floods affected many plots of land under cultivation in the six provinces, especially rice fields (frequently endangering this year's crops), citrus and other fruit crops, coffee trees and palm groves. Farmers' inventories were wiped out, especially in the Brickaville region.

36. Moreover, the cyclones coincided with the welding period; the arrivals of vessels carrying imported food were disrupted because of the cyclone hazard and the damage caused to ports.

D. Water/sanitation

37. The displaced populations of Antananarivo, the disaster victims of Tamatave, and the residents of the flooded Brickaville district were affected by an alarming degradation in water quality due mainly to faecal contamination; this raised fears of an outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases, especially in children, as well as the risk of epidemics. The population concerned is said to number around 250,000, including 48,000 children under five. To this must be added the populations of the disaster-stricken localities of Antsiranana Province, especially Vohemar.

III. NATIONAL RESPONSE

38. Since Daisy struck, and before Geralda did so, several local non-governmental organizations had organized relief centres for the first groups affected. A total of 212 intake centres were opened in Antananarivo to receive disaster victims.

39. As soon as Geralda was forecast, the Government set up two crisis units, one in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was responsible for coordinating donor contacts, and the other in the Ministry of Transport and Meteorology, which was responsible for monitoring the cyclone paths and keeping the competent authorities informed. These two units were supplemented by the National Aid Council, a permanent national body dealing with emergency situations.

40. Each time a cyclone disturbance was forecast, the national radio network broadcast danger alerts, advisories and warnings addressed to the populations of the localities concerned on a regular basis throughout the hours preceding the cyclones.

41. Some Government departments (Interior, Health, Defence, Transport, Trade) were called upon to assess damage, estimate needs and carry out emergency actions. Several of these departments were either reactivated or set up internal units.

42. The Government organized missions with donor participation to carry out site visits and estimate damage in Tamatave and Brickaville. The Prime Minister made a visit to Vohemar.

43. On Saturday, 5 February, a meeting with donors was held during which Mr. Jacques Sylla appealed, on behalf of the Government, for international solidarity with the Malagasy people in the wake of the disaster. A second meeting with donors was held on 15 February in the presence of a World Bank post-emergency mission.

44. On 10 February, a meeting was held with a limited number of participants to consider the crucial question of food supplies; it was presided over by the Acting Prime Minister and included, on the Malagasy side, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Interior and, on the donor side, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the head of the French cooperation mission, the Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the head of the delegation of the Commission of the European Communities. Following this meeting, the Government issued a press release describing the measures agreed upon.

45. The Minister for Foreign Affairs also requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to present the appeal for post-Litanne and Nadia assistance to the donor community. He remains in constant contact with the Resident Coordinator.

46. The Minister of Transport and Meteorology took charge of the rapid-alert unit and personally transmitted meteorological information to UNDP on a regular basis. In addition to these measures in the field, clean-up operations, the monitoring of embankments and repairs were undertaken by the army, police force and technical services.

47. The Minister of Agriculture took the initiative of preparing a major report assessing the damage to crops and the agricultural infrastructure and addressed to the multi-donor agricultural impact study mission.

48. The Minister of Public Works personally helped to repair roads and railways.

49. The National Aid Council issued a memorandum containing an inventory of the damage caused by Daisy and Geralda in the 79 fivondronana.

IV. ACTION TAKEN BY DONORS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

50. The Resident Coordinator, in cooperation with bilateral donors (USAID, France, Switzerland, Germany, Japan, Commission of the European Communities), agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, such as CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Commission Episcopale d'Action Sociale, Caritas, Médecins sans frontières and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, undertook to assist the Government in organizing immediate actions and assessing the impact of the disaster; each participant mobilized to provide assistance in its area of competence.

51. There was a tremendous outpouring of solidarity from the international community, especially in the wake of Geralda. Donors granted aid in financial form as well as in the form of technical assistance, equipment and food.

52. Thus, in the first few hours after Geralda struck Tamatave, a rapid response from France enabled civil defence teams to assist in the relief operations; with the help of generators, JIRAMA began operating again, thus ensuring a power supply, as did the hospital. On 3 February, two French army Transall aircraft were dispatched, one on a reconnaissance mission and the other carrying a medical team and five tons of equipment. On 5 February, a third Transall brought in 12 tons of equipment, and the vessel Jules Verne and its crew helped to restore the supply of water and electricity. CARE International and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) dispatched missions to Brickaville to assess the situation and proposed a plan of action.

53. With regard to other equipment, generators and electrical supplies, sheet metal, tents, canvas sheets and motor pumps were contributed very rapidly by France, Japan, Germany and numerous non-governmental organizations in Réunion. In addition to direct aid to disaster victims, Switzerland provided assistance for emergency repairs to reopen the Antananarivo/Moramanga road. In addition to cash disbursements, USAID, Switzerland, France, Caritas, CRS, Handicap International and several other non-governmental organizations granted assistance in the form of rice and other foodstuffs. Japan, the Commission of the European Communities, USAID, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and CRS granted major assistance in the form of medicines. Non-governmental organizations, especially CARE International, assumed responsibility for the procurement and/or distribution of food and medical aid.

54. In the wake of Daisy and Geralda, Madagascar received, from all donor sources, some 2,000 tons of rice, 2,500 tons of flour, 5,000 tons of miscellaneous foodstuffs, US$ 3,500,000 in cash, major assistance in the form of

medicines, construction equipment and materials, and technical assistance teams, especially medical ones.

55. As part of the activities of the committees set up by the donors, international assistance was mobilized in the following manner:

1. Infrastructure

56. After Geralda struck, traffic was disrupted on several main highways and railway lines. However, the Government did not have access to information on the full extent of the damage caused to these routes. Accordingly, an infrastructure committee was established to organize land and air teams to assist the Government in assessing the scope of the damage and making estimates of the cost and time-frame for repairs, especially to the Moramanga/Brickaville highway, whose restoration was vital for the supply of provisions to the capital.

57. Thus, reconnaissance missions carried out by technicians from France, Switzerland, the World Bank and the Commission of the European Communities enabled the nature and significance of the damage (mudslides blocking roads, landslides, subsidence, ruptures) to be determined and records to be established, especially for national highways 2 and 6. Overflights made it possible to determine the gravity of the damage caused to the railway network.

58. These various land and air missions also made it possible to establish action priorities, i.e., reopening roads as a matter of urgency, the railway being too badly damaged; distinguishing emergency repairs from reinforcement and subsequent rehabilitation; regulating tonnages and access to the Antananarivo/Tamatave highway (Moramanga/Brickaville segment).

59. The World Bank decided to release emergency credits in the amount of US$ 10 million as a contribution to rehabilitation. Furthermore, it expressed willingness to accept the utilization of CRESAN and CRESED credits for health units and schools, as well as PASAGE credits.

60. The committee gave special emphasis to factors facilitating or aggravating the damage, such as degradation of the environment due to cultivation over burnt stubble and devastating deforestation of catchment areas.

2. Action in rural areas

61. The committee was responsible for initiating and coordinating efforts relating to health, water, sanitation and food in the areas outside Antananarivo, mainly Brickaville and its environs, which suffered serious damage.

62. In cooperation with local authorities, UNICEF, USAID, the World Food Programme (WFP), Médecins sans frontières, the agencies participating in project UNDP/FAO/MAG/88/032 and CARE International carried out important work in identifying disaster-stricken firaisana (administrative districts), organizing

food distribution and assessing the nutritional, health and food security status of the population.

63. Through its efforts, this committee made it possible to provide the residents of one Brickaville district, which suffered the worst damage, with substantial aid in the form of food, medicines and potable water and to prevent epidemics, mainly among children; this was due, in particular, to CARE International, which undertook to cover the nutritional needs of the Brickaville region by setting up two general distribution programmes.

64. Moreover, the committee developed a seed programme which will encourage donors to provide assistance for the reconstitution of food-producing reserves.

65. The committee also contributed significantly to the assessment of other damage, mainly to road infrastructure and dwellings.

3. Food

66. The food committee was responsible for considering the immediate aspects of providing supplies to the Antananarivo intake centres and other areas, as well as assessing the damage to agriculture and the subsequent problems of providing supplies in the short and medium term, in anticipation of shortages linked to poor harvests.

67. With regard to the distribution of food to disaster victims, CARE International assumed responsibility for the Brickaville region, while the food committee, WFP, CRS, Caritas and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) took charge of the intake centres in Antananarivo; the committee concluded that these efforts were commensurate with emergency needs. There are indications that from now to December 1994, food aid consisting of 14,000 tons of rice will be needed for the Brickaville region alone; some donors (USAID, WFP, European Union) have already made commitments in this regard. However, not all of the needs have been covered.

68. In respect of the provision of supplies to Antananarivo, the committee estimated the needs for rice and identified existing inventories in Tamatave and the Lake Alaotra region. Next, in cooperation with the Government, the committee considered what steps to take (fuel, vehicles) to facilitate the transport of rice to the capital and reduce speculation.

69. Furthermore, the committee established indicative needs for food aid in anticipation of the production losses that would result from flooding of the rice fields.

70. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and WFP organized a multi-donor mission whose mandate consisted of: assessing the damage caused to the agricultural infrastructure, as well as crop losses; assessing the situation with regard to the supply of basic commodities and analysing price trends in order to prevent a food crisis; estimating the needs of the target population for emergency food aid; proposing emergency actions to

be taken in order to rehabilitate agriculture and establish records of projects identified.

4. Fuel

71. The fuel committee considered the appropriate steps to be taken in order to import fuel pending repairs to the refinery for which the insurer was responsible. As the refinery could not resume operating for about six months, the problem arose of currency to pay for imports, an issue which the Commission of the European Communities proposed to negotiate with the Malagasy side. Moreover, the removal infrastructure, the disruption of rail traffic and the state of the roads considerably slowed the supply of fuel, which had been rationed in the aftermath of Geralda, to Antananarivo. This shortage had an adverse effect on the country's economy.

5. Health, water and sanitation

72. The health committee was responsible for: re-estimating the needs for medicines and small medical and surgical supplies; organizing an immunization programme; identifying non-governmental organizations which would provide support; and studying water and sanitation issues.

73. The committee reached agreement with the Ministry on establishing a donor/Government joint emergency unit, and set up a logistical unit which oversees the distribution of donations in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. All the donors emphasized their concern that the medicines should be dispatched to disaster victims with the speed called for by the emergency and that everything should be done to prevent the recurrence of prior experiences with emergency donations.

74. The health sector was one in which the needs for assistance in the post-emergency phase were covered to a large extent by left-over shipments of medicines.

75. Medical aid was granted by the European Community, the United States of America, Switzerland, WHO, UNICEF and Japan. Non-governmental organizations, such as Action Internationale contre la Faim (AICF), CRS, Caritas, Handicap International, Médecins du Monde, ICRC and Médecins sans frontières provided distribution support.

76. The World Bank offered the use of existing credits under the CRESAN project for rehabilitating the health infrastructure. The United Nations Children's Fund, in cooperation with CARE International and other non-governmental organizations, carried out an immunization campaign and a potable water supply operation.

77. Moreover, the cyclone emergency situation provided the national party with an opportunity to relaunch the debate over Madagascar's pharmaceutical policy.

V. ACTION TAKEN BY AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

78. On 2 February, the Resident Coordinator called a meeting of the emergency committee of the United Nations system, consisting of FAO, WHO, WFP, UNDP and UNICEF.

79. By agreement with all the donors, the Resident Coordinator was designated to act as spokesman in talks with the Government. In this capacity, he presided over general meetings of donors, headed delegations during periodic contacts with the Acting Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and coordinated the efforts of the various committees.

80. In addition, UNDP provided secretariat staff for various meetings with the Government and among donors, produced the minutes of the meetings, prepared summary tables of the aid granted, maintained permanent contact with the rapid-alert and emergency units in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Meteorology, and transmitted information on a regular basis to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. On several occasions, the Government conveyed its requests to the donors through UNDP.

81. The United States Agency for International Development, WFP, UNDP and UNICEF, as well as FAO, participated in overflights of the disaster areas on 4 February. The Resident Coordinator was invited to participate in two field visits organized by the Government, including one in which a World Bank technical mission took part.

82. The World Bank dispatched a post-emergency mission to assess the damage, consider the possibility of assuming responsibility for some repairs, and propose specific response measures in coordination with other donors.

83. The World Food Programme ensured food distribution in the Antananarivo intake centres. The World Health Organization initiated meetings with the national party aimed at developing more specific estimates of the needs for medicines and medical and surgical supplies and coordinated the functions of an inter-agency medicines committee.

84. The United Nations Children's Fund released US$ 50,000 so that medicines could be ordered immediately; this was followed by 250,000 Malagasy francs for child care and US$ 2 million as a contribution to school rehabilitation.

85. From 17 March to 8 April, a FAO/WFP multi-donor mission open to other partners helped the Government to assess the damage caused to the agricultural infrastructure, as well as crop losses, and their consequences. The final report of the mission is due at the beginning of May.

VI. COORDINATION

86. At their monthly meeting, held on 9 February 1994, the heads of the agencies of the United Nations system decided, in view of the situation, to accelerate the timing of their meetings; accordingly, they regularly included in their agenda an item on coordination.

87. The agencies assumed responsibility for coordinating actions in accordance with their sphere of competence (e.g., records of medicines - WHO; assessing crop damage - FAO; food - WFP).

88. In cooperation with the Resident Coordinator, the donors and non-governmental organizations with local representatives held regular general meetings. A total of seven plenary meetings were held in the aftermath of Daisy and Geralda; two post-Litanne meetings and one post-Nadia meeting had already been held. In addition, the Government and the donors organized two meetings under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and two were also organized as part of the FAO/WFP multi-donor mission.

89. At their first meeting, the donors set up committees to coordinate their efforts in the areas of infrastructure, health, water and sanitation, rural action, fuel and food, respectively.

90. The chairmen of the committees were invited to report on their activities at the general meetings and in talks with the Government. They were urged to work in close coordination with the national authorities concerned and to ensure cooperation between the committees.

Table. Assistance provided to Madagascar in response to the emergency situation resulting from cyclones Daisy and Geralda

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
FOOD AID					
Rice	81.10 tons	Port Authority and NGOs	16 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Rice	105.25 tons	WFP/Switzerland	Distributed	Antananarivo	Handled by CARE Int'l
Rice	1 600 tons (US$ 900 000)	USAID	February 1994	All disaster victims	Handled by CRS
Rice	8 tons	Handicap Int'l	February 1994	Andonatapenaka	Andonatapenaka and Assoc. Akamasoa
Rice	3 tons	Caritas Madagascar	14 February 1994	1 ton/village	Madirovalo, Ambato-Boeny, Marovoay
Rice	5 tons	Caritas Madagascar	14 February 1994	1 ton	Léproserie Tamatave, Maison Charité,
				4 tons	NDL, Villages Ambila/Tamatave, Villages Oust, Fanandrana, Ifito
Rice	26.35 tons	Catholic Relief Serv. (CRS)	16 February 1994	Ambatondraraka	
Rice	60 tons	Catholic Relief Serv.	18 February 1994	Tana Diocese	30 centres, via Assoc. Nemena, bush
Rice	50 tons	Vatican and Caritas Mad.	14 March 1994	Tamatave Diocese	156,000 persons
Rice	(US$ 608 240)	Italy	March 1994		Handled by WFP
Rice	WFP/EMOP 5 091			Tamatave/Brickaville	Handled by CARE (Southern rice emergency)
Subtotal	1 936.70 tons				
Flour	2 920 tons	France	April 1994		
Rice/beans	200 tons	Swiss Cooperation	February 1994	Antananarivo	Executing agency: WFP
Dried fish	5 tons	United Kingdom	February 1994	Brickaville/Tamatave	
Sugar	500 tons	France	April 1994		
Foodstuffs	10 tons	French NGOs	16 February 1994		Distributed
Milk	170 litres	Tiko	February 1994	Antananarivo	
Yogurt	110 packets	Tiko	February 1994	Antananarivo	
Protein-enriched biscuits	10 000	Médecins du Monde, Kenya	March 1994		

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
CSB	1 250 tons	Catholic Relief Serv.	16 February 1994	Ambatondraza region	6 906 disaster victims in the region
CSB	20 tons	Catholic Relief Serv.	18 February 1994	Tana Diocese	30 centres in the town
Maize	1 000 tons	WFP/EMOP 5 091 (So. emerg.)	26 March 1994	Tamatave/Brickaville	Handled by CARE Int'l
	1 000 tons	Germany	3 April 1994	Antananarivo	Assistance through German food aid, Food for Work, school cafeterias, with WFP and UNICEF
Meat, freeze-dried vegetables, soup	US$ 486 000	Italy	March 1994		Distributed through WFP
Powdered milk, homogenized biscuits	US$ 304 124	Italy	March 1994		Distributed through WFP
Soybean oil	US$ 304 124	Italy	March 1994		Distributed through WFP
HEALTH-CARE AID					
Medicines	US$ 40 000	Swiss Cooperation			
Solutions	3 tons (US$ 5 000)	USAID			Distributed by MSF
Sterilization tablets	50 000	Japan	Immediately	Malagasy Government	Distributed
Equipment and medicine kits for 50,000 persons	5	Japan	Immediately	Malagasy Government	Distributed
Boxes of medicines	20	France	8 February 1994	Unit	Packed with technical equipment
100 mg chloroquinine	6 000	Tantely NGO	Immediately	Antananarivo	
100 mg Ofaquine	7 000	SHOPHARMAD	Immediately		
Odiva packets	450	SHOPHARMAD	Immediately	Antananarivo	
3 ml Dulcicortine	28	SHOPHARMAD	Immediately		
Litres of mercurochrome	5	SHOPHARMAD	Immediately	Antananarivo	
250 g cotton	10	SHOPHARMAD	Immediately		
Medicines	1 m^3	Assoc. Le Tampon	16 February 1994	Brickaville	Distributed
Medicines and bandages	1 ton	Pharmaciens sans frontières	16 February 1994		Distributed

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
Soap	1 000	Savonnerie Tropicale	Distributed		Distributed
Medicine kits for 10,000 persons	1 kit = 3 mos.	Médecins du Monde, Paris	Immediately	MSF office, Tana	
	10 000	Médecins du monde, Kenya	Next few days		
Oral rehydration packets	1 659 kg	WHO	Immediately		
Medicines	US$ 21 000	Ctee. of 24		Nat'l Aid Council	
Medicines	US$ 43 103	Commission of the European Communities		Antananarivo	Via Médecins sans frontières
Emergency kits	US$ 267 857	Commission of the European Communities			
Medicines	US$ 16 056	Catholic Relief Serv.	16 February 1994	Antananarivo	Health Centres: 36,856 disaster victims
Medicines	US$ 33 903	Secours Catholic Franç.	1 March 1994		Diocese and social welfare centres
Medicines	US$ 32 706	Caritas Verband	1 March 1994		Clinics run by Caritas Mad.
CLOTHING AND BLANKETS					
Blankets	5 500	France	8 February 1994	NGO	Distributed
Blankets	3 000	Japan	Immediately	Malagasy Government	Distributed
Blankets	55	SOMACOU	Immediately	Malagasy Government	
Clothing	1 700	National Committee of the Red Cross	Distributed	Antananarivo	
Clothing	4 m^3	Assoc. Le Tampon	16 February 1994	Brickaville	Distributed
Clothing	2 tons	Handicap Int'l Réunion	16 February 1994		Distributed
Blankets	2 100	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Distributed	Antananarivo	Distributed to disaster victims by NGOs
Blankets	3 200 (US$ 13 970)	Catholic Relief Serv.		Antananarivo Diocese	Distributed
BUILDING EQUIPMENT/ MATERIALS					
Ambulance	1	Association Le Tampon	16 February 1994	Brickaville	
Motor pumps	40	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave/Tana NGO	Distributed

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TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
Electric pumps	30	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Generators	20	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Camp beds	200	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Canvas sheets	200	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Double-roofed tents for 12 persons	50	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Distributed
Tents for 15 persons	10	Japan	3 February 1994	Malagasy Government	Distributed
Sheet metal	22 tons	St. Vincent de Paul	Next few days	Father Pedro	
Sheet metal	40 tons	Ville du Port	16 February 1994	Tamatave City Hall	
Sheet metal	US$ 200 000	USAID		Tamatave and region	Handled by CARE Int'l
Spikes	1.3 tons	Ville du Port	16 February 1994		
Buses for road repair	14.5 tons	France Ville du Port	Immediately 16 February 1994	JIRAMA	
Pipes	1 ton	Ville du Port	16 February 1994	Tamatave	
Joints		France	8 February 1994	Tamatave	
Electrical equipment, waste water conduits		France	8 February 1994	Tamatave	
Equipment for electrical grids and communications and water networks	0.6 tons	France	9 March 1994	Tamatave	
Technical supplies	2 508	France	8 February 1994	SOLIMA	
Specific oils	75	Germany (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Next few days	Tamatave/Tana NGO	To be discussed with CSN and local NGOs
Paraffin lamps	25	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	To be discussed	
Tents	10 m (US$ 58 820)	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	HI Antananarivo	
Plastic sheets	400 m	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	HI Antananarivo	
Nylon cord	3	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	HI Antananarivo	
Coarse twine	4 litres	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	HI Antananarivo	
Water filters	25 cps	Handicap Int'l Réunion	Immediately	HI Antananarivo	
Water disinfectant	1	French Cooperation	8 February 1994	HI Antananarivo	

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TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
Hydroclonazone	2	French Cooperation	8 February 1994	Ursuline Sisters and Soeurs de la	
Generator	2	French Cooperation	8 February 1994	Sagesee, Tamatave	
Motor pumps					
Electric pumps					
Tents	US$ 59 000			CSN and NGOs	
CASH					
Cash	US$ 47 278	United Kingdom	Immediately	Brickaville	CARE Int'l/Responsible for logistics, personnel, admin.
Cash	US$ 30 000	United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs	Immediately		CARE/Food purchase and distribution
Cash	US$ 205 800	USAID	Immediately	Brick. Ranomafana	Reconstruction of Ranomafana, Brick. clinics, and NGO support
Cash	US$ 300 000	UNICEF	Immediately		Purchase of 50,000 medicines Care of 250,000 children
Cash	US$ 2 000 000	UNICEF	March/April 1994	Tamatave and Antananarivo provinces	Possible assistance/ school rehabilitation
Cash	US$ 46 167	Norway	Immediately		Purchase of medicines and vaccines through CARE Int'l
Cash	US$ 20 000	Switzerland	Immediately		Emergency repairs/ reopening of RN2 (Tana/Moramanga)
Cash	US$ 130 000	Switzerland	March 1994		Feasibility study/ reinforcement of RN2 (Tana/Moramanga)
Cash	US$ 1 000 000	Switzerland	March/June 1994		To be confirmed, depending on feasibility study
Cash	US$ 20 000	Switzerland	Immediately	Morondava/Mahabo	Assistance to Morondava disaster victims

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
Cash	Unknown	Médecins du Monde, Réunion			Local purchase of soap and wood for heating
Cash	US$ 10 000	WHO	Immediately		
Cash	US$ 178 571	Commission of the European Communities		Antananarivo	Via Red Cross
Cash	US$ 196 429	Commission of the European Communities		Antananarivo and	Via Handicap Int'l
Cash	US$ 178 571	Commission of the European Communities		East Coast	Via Secours Cath. Français
Cash	US$ 223 214	Commission of the European Communities	22 February 1994	Tana and East Coast	Via Secours Populations
Cash	US$ 23 773	Netherlands	Immediately	Brickaville region	Food storage and transport (handled by CARE)
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE					
Medical/Civil defence teams	12 persons	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	Services of Col. Rossier, doctor and specialist in medical treatment of disaster victims in the Ministry of Health, made available
Electricians, telecom. technicians	12 persons	France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	
Vessel Jules Verne,		France	3 February 1994	Tamatave	
crew		Japan	Immediately		
Medical team/ health assessment	1	UNICEF	3 mos.		
Consultants	1	FAO	1 week	Antananarivo	
Consultants	US$ 40 000	FAO/UFP	2 weeks	Tamatave	
Experts	US$ 5 155	Commission of the European Communities	As from 8/2		Assistance to Madagascar national rail network and Ministry of Public Works

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE (in cash or in kind)	QUANTITY OR VALUE (US$)	DONOR	DATE AVAILABLE	DESTINATION (where appropriate)	REMARKS
MISCELLANEOUS					
School supplies	2 tons	St. Vincent de Paul	Next few days	Father Pedro	
Miscellaneous	5 tons	St. Vincent de Paul	Next few days	Father Pedro	
Rice, sugar, powdered milk, disinfectant, insecticide, water-chlorination supplies	6.5 tons	Regional Council of Médecins du Monde, Réunion	Immediately	Central pharmacy, operational unit	
In kind	US$ 34 483	Regional Council, Réunion			
In kind	US$ 51 724	Regional Council, Haut-de-Seine			
Charcoal	1 200 sacks (US$ 10 392)	Catholic Relief Serv.		Tana and Atodrazaka	

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SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Assistance to Yemen

Report of the Secretary-General

INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 1993/58 the Economic and Social Council, recognizing the challenges facing Yemen as a result of unification, the return of Yemeni expatriates, the flow of refugees, and recent natural disasters, called on the international community, Member States and all United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, to assist in addressing the emergency situation, to help Yemen in mobilizing its own resources, and to provide assistance to the Government in its reconstruction and development efforts. In addition, the Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Council at its substantive session of 1994.

MOBILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A. Emergency recovery programme

2. Following the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and in order to deal with the needs of returnees, ranging from infrastructure to employment creation, the World Bank and the Government of Yemen, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations of the United Nations system, developed a $245 million multisectoral emergency recovery programme. The programme was designed to cover the country's needs in a wide range of sectors, including road construction, education, agriculture and housing.

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* E/1994/100.

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3. To date, the World Bank has mobilized $60 million in credits and grants for an emergency recovery project, including $33 million from the World Bank and the International Development Association (IDA), $15 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and $4.5 million from Germany. UNDP provided $400,000 to Yemen from special programme resources for supporting countries affected by the crisis in order to assist the Government's management unit, which is coordinating the project.

4. Activities targeted to programme objectives by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Netherlands and others bring total funds available for this programme to $86 million. This leaves a funding gap of $159 million to implement the programme fully. In the meantime, 60 per cent of the World Bank funds, 25 per cent of the USAID funds and 95 per cent of the German funds have been disbursed to date.

B. Response of organizations of the United Nations system

1. United Nations Children's Fund

5. UNICEF responded to the country's emergency needs in the areas of returnees, cholera control and Somali refugees. In December 1990, the Executive Director of UNICEF approved the release of $160,000 from the Emergency Reserve Fund in response to the Government's appeal for emergency relief assistance. These funds were used to procure and air freight 14 tons of emergency health and drug kits to support relief operations in the Tihama region. A subsequent release of $100,000 from the Emergency Relief Fund was approved in January 1991 to procure vaccines and support field operations.

6. At the request of the Government, UNICEF air freighted a consignment of medical supplies worth $22,000 into the country to assist in cholera case management.

7. During the emergency phase of the influx of refugees from Somalia, UNICEF provided milk and food to the children camped on the beach through Médecins sans frontières and the Red Crescent. Support was also provided to immunize the younger children against measles and to establish an oral rehydration therapy unit.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

8. In order to respond to the emergency recovery programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has reoriented its programme in Yemen to assist the country in tackling three main issues: (a) conservation and management of land and water resources, including forestry and range management and livestock development; (b) establishment of adequate production systems for food crops and fodder crops, including marketing, storage and credit; and (c) development of a participatory approach in order to improve primary support services for the smallholder producers through improvement of effective linkages between research and extension.

9. Within this framework, FAO has conducted, from its technical cooperation resources, an agricultural sector review, with the participation of the Government, the university, private communities and donors. The study identified constraints and recommended solutions.

10. In addition, within the Netherlands Trust Fund modality, FAO initiated the implementation of an environmental resources assessment for rural land-use planning, based on a participatory approach, which will assure the allocation of land resources according to the requirements of communities. With a Swiss trust fund, FAO is strengthening forestry and range management authorities in management and conservation of natural vegetation resources and desertification control. With funds from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), FAO is implementing a rural family planning project through the agriculture research and extension system. FAO also participated in the initial formulation of the UNDP-coordinated pilot resettlement project for returnees in Tihama.

11. FAO will formulate an integrated rural development project in Abyan governorate, financed by UNDP. It is also expected that FAO will provide technical assistance to the livestock sector, targeted to the family sector producers. It will lead to improvement of family income in rural areas and will contribute to increased job opportunities in fodder production in addition to animal production.

3. United Nations Development Programme

12. Apart from its contribution to the emergency recovery programme, UNDP provided emergency assistance totalling $100,000 to Yemen, from special programme resources, following two natural disasters. In February 1993, torrential rains and flash floods struck the four southern governorates of Aden, Lahej, Abyan and Shabwa, leaving 38 dead, 5,530 houses destroyed and around 33,000 people homeless. The damage devastated houses, buildings, flood control and irrigation structures, crops, livestock and public infrastructure. Following an appeal made by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, international donors responded with assistance of $390,000 from the United States, Netherlands, United Kingdom and Australia. The funds, which have all been disbursed, provided medicines and medical equipment to treat and prevent large-scale outbreaks of communicable diseases and procurement of a sewer emptier/cleaner. The direct total cost of damages caused by the February 1993 flash floods has been estimated at $312 million, of which damage to the Aden International Airport alone accounted for $123 million.

13. In May 1993 swarms of locusts entered the Marib and Shabwa governorate, causing extensive damage to pastures, grain and fruit farms in an area estimated to be 5,580 sq. km. UNDP provided logistical support for an aerial spraying campaign coordinated by FAO and funded by the Government and the donor community.

14. In the area of resource mobilization, in January 1994 representatives from the Government and UNDP attended a workshop on resource mobilization through effective aid coordination and management, sponsored by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SUTCDC) and the Division for

Regional Programmes in the Regional Bureau for Arab States (DRP/RBAS). A substantive revision of the ongoing UNDP/national execution project is anticipated to improve resource mobilization for capacity-building in the Ministry of Planning and Development.

15. The first country programme for Yemen, with an original total indicative planning figure of $42.6 million over the five-year period 1992-1996, responds to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on assistance to Yemen dating from December 1990. The country programme's four areas of concentration focus on strategic planning, management development, human development and natural resources management. Seed money has been provided to support strategic planning for industrial development and investment promotion in the private sector and for health development and women in development. The Government has requested UNDP cooperation in preparing a country strategy note.

16. Although significant sectoral and subsectoral studies carried out at the country level on vocational training, environment, water and privatization resulted in a number of concrete programme and project ideas, approvals and budget build-up has been much slower than anticipated due to internal political conflict. Nevertheless, by the end of January 1994, the total level of pipeline projects had reached $11.1 million. A major pipeline project ready for approval is a $4 million water resources management project, with $2 million pledged as cost-sharing by the Netherlands. The mid-term review of the country programme scheduled for October 1994 will discuss four substantive areas: water, women in development, environment and the public sector.

17. Provision of assistance to returnees with a UNDP input of $1.5 million is under discussion with the Government. Returnees are in need of food, shelter, health services, education and other services and employment. UNDP, FAO and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat) are ready to finalize an integrated rural development project for the resettlement of returnees in Tihama once the land has been allocated. The proposed project will settled some 5,000 returnees on Government-selected land for their sustainable employment in agriculture and animal husbandry. It will also benefit the resident community by providing improved land use and productivity and more employment opportunities.

4. World Food Programme

18. In response to an appeal from the Government to address the emergency in Aden caused by flash floods in February 1993, the World Food Programme (WFP) approved assistance for 3,000 flood victims for a period of six months at a total estimated cost of $118,000.

19. Assistance to Ethiopian and Somali refugees has been provided in food assistance amounting to $1.7 million to feed an estimated 31,000 refugees since February 1992. Currently, WFP continues to assist 13,000 refugees.

20. WFP reconstruction and development efforts in Yemen include the development of rural community infrastructure, at an estimated cost of $13.5 million, and

assistance for soil and water conservation, at an estimated cost of $6.5 million.

21. In the health and education sector, WFP is assisting the country through three projects by providing assistance for primary education, at an estimated cost of $21.6 million; assistance to maternal and child health centres, at an estimated cost of $9.5 million; and assistance to health-care units, hospitals and social centres. Under the latter project, WFP so far has provided food assistance amounting to $23.5 million. Currently, the project is being reformulated, and the estimated cost is not yet available.

5. United Nations Population Fund

22. The implementation of the 1992-1996 UNFPA country programme progressed considerably during 1993. The major developments have been focused on the operationalization of the national population policy. Seven sectoral workshops were organized in 1993 to review the implementation and impact of the national population policy and to develop effective mechanisms to integrate population variables into the development planning of Yemen.

23. In the light of the Government's objectives and priorities in the health sector, UNFPA has approved and operationalized a major project amounting to $3 million to assist the Government in improving the access and the quality of care for maternal and child health services, including family planning.

24. UNFPA is also providing assistance in the area of population information, education and communication. This is being carried out through different sectoral information, education and communications projects throughout the country. The emphasis is on developing a multimedia approach to encourage the use of reproductive health services and for other family health-related issues, including breast-feeding and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

25. UNFPA continues to emphasize the necessity of highlighting gender issues during the population census and other surveys in order to obtain a realistic picture of the socio-cultural and economic status of women, particularly their economic activities. In this connection, an important activity organized in collaboration with the University of Sana'a was the national workshop on legislation related to women's status in Yemen, held in November 1993.

26. UNFPA is also working with non-governmental organizations that are active in community-based programmes to assist local families in the provision of health education services.

6. World Health Organization

27. The World Health Organization (WHO) has responded to the Government's call for emergency assistance in a number of key areas, providing both preventative and curative health care. Since 1990, diarrhoeal diseases have become a top priority in Yemen because of the large number of cases and deaths witnessed in

the last three years. WHO has provided financial and technical assistance amounting to $550,000 to the Ministry of Public Health and related ministries to control diarrhoeal diseases. WHO input for the control of other communicable diseases, including malaria, schistosomiasis, leprosy, onchocerciasis, and upper respiratory tract infections, amounted to $1.5 million.

28. In the area of health manpower development to improve the standard of performance of human resources, WHO has provided $800,000 since 1990. Health promotion and disease prevention include a broad spectrum of activities covering health education and information, vaccination, maternal and child health care, and nutrition and amounting to $1.2 million. Health management is a particularly weak area in Yemen. To improve the managerial process for national health development, WHO has provided technical assistance and financial assistance amounting to $700,000 over the period under review.

29. Under its regular budget, WHO has provided $60,000 to the Government of Yemen for the supply of essential drugs and vaccines, as well as $1 million annually from its Voluntary Fund.

30. Responding to the specific needs of Yemen, WHO has intensified its collaboration with the Government to develop infrastructure for human resource development, district health systems based on primary health care, and information systems and health-financing. These efforts have been funded through extrabudgetary resources amounting to approximately $500,000 per year.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

SUMMARY

At its fourteenth session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) reviewed the work accomplished by the Institute during the second year of the biennium 1992-1993. In examining what role INSTRAW might play post-Beijing, information was sought on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) merger in order to enable the Board to determine new directives and the future thrust of INSTRAW programmes. The Board also examined the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995, which it adopted as amended.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the work undertaken and results achieved. It also expressed its appreciation to the Director and staff of INSTRAW for the fact that, despite the uncertain situation facing the Institute, the approved work programme for the biennium had been implemented. The Board strongly endorsed increasing the cooperation between INSTRAW and academic institutions. It requested all its members to assist in widely disseminating the INSTRAW Gender Training Portfolio on Women in Development and computer models to mainstream academic institutions and policy makers. It further requested that, in view of the forthcoming global conferences being organized by the United Nations, efforts be made to improve communication and increase the availability of information on all aspects of women and development issues.

* E/1994/100.

The Board, in reviewing the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger, expressed the view that the merger should be conceived as coordinating and integrating the activities of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in order to contribute to achieving a stronger, more unified and more visible programme for the advancement of women within the United Nations system as a whole. The Board recommended that the issue of governance related to the proposed integration of both institutions be given special attention so as to ensure the political visibility of their research, training and operational activities.

The Board emphasized that research, training and information will be crucial elements of the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action that would emanate from the Fourth World Conference on Women. It noted that the conceptual framework of both former and current INSTRAW work programmes were in accordance with the draft Platform for Action (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex). The Board stressed that future research, training and information activities of INSTRAW should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes that contributed to the advancement of women. The Board emphasized that bringing women-related issues into the mainstream of the development process should change in a fundamental way the nature of that process, which ought to centre on the needs and aspirations of all human beings.

The Board welcomed the submission of the programme of activities for the entire biennium 1994-1995 in view of the crucial role that the INSTRAW mandate on research and training must play in the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and in the follow-up to that Conference. In view of that particular role, the Board made a number of amendments in order to strengthen the INSTRAW contribution to Conference preparations at the global, regional and national levels. In order to ensure the maximum utilization of available resources, the Board requested the INSTRAW management to coordinate its proposed activities with UNIFEM whenever possible, particularly in the subprogramme related to information, communication and documentation. It expressed its readiness to contribute to the efforts under way to create a better interaction among INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the regional commissions, and recommended that a consultative meeting of those entities and bodies be convened.

The Board made a strong appeal to donor countries to maintain and increase their levels of contributions to the research and training activities of INSTRAW, irrespective of future institutional arrangements.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	1 - 46	4
II.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1993: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE	47 - 62	9
III.	ROLE OF INSTRAW IN RESEARCH AND TRAINING - POST BEIJING	63 - 80	13
IV.	PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995	81 - 111	16
V.	OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE	112 - 114	20
VI.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION	115	20
VII.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	116 - 127	20

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Decisions adopted by the Board

1. The decisions set out in the paragraphs below, which were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) at its fourteenth session, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the Institute

2. The Board expressed satisfaction with the work programme implemented during 1993 as well as with the format of the progress report, which had provided more substantive information in response to the request of the Board at its thirteenth session.

3. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Director and staff of INSTRAW for the achievements of programmed outputs despite the uncertain situation facing the Institute.

4. The Board agreed that a continuation of INSTRAW activities in the field of statistics, including the activities related to the publication of the second edition of The World's Women and the reflection of the role of women in the informal sector in the System of National Accounts should be part of the Institute's activities in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

5. The Board recommended that the programme related to women farmers in eastern and central Europe be reformulated into a more comprehensive programme related to the position of women in countries whose economies were in transition to a market economy.

6. The Board strongly endorsed increasing the cooperation between INSTRAW and academic institutions. It requested all its members to assist in widely disseminating the INSTRAW Gender Training Portfolio on Women in Development to mainstream academic institutions. Efforts should also be intensified to widely disseminate the computer models to policy makers.

7. The Board recommended that the work on the typology of credit programmes for women continue seeking an active cooperation on the part of international and regional develop banks, financial institutions and bilateral donors.

8. The Board requested that efforts be made to increase communication and information on all aspects of women and development issues in view of the forthcoming International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

9. The Board noted with satisfaction the increased cooperation between INSTRAW and both mainstream and non-governmental institutions in the host country.

2. Role of INSTRAW in research and training - post Beijing

(a) Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger

10. After reviewing the documents and recommendations related to the proposed merger of INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Board recommended that, in the continuation of the process, the caveats contained in the report of the Task Force on INSTRAW/UNIFEM (E/1993/82, annex) should be taken into account. The Board pointed out that the caveats paid special attention to the need for a proper analysis of the legal, financial and administrative implications of, and a time-frame for, the proposed merger, as well as how to optimize the use of INSTRAW premises in the Dominican Republic for research and training for the advancement of women.

11. The Board expressed its view that the proposed merger should be conceived as coordinating and integrating the activities of INSTRAW and UNIFEM in order to contribute to achieving a stronger, more unified and more visible programme for the advancement of women within the United Nations system as a whole, taking into account the specific tasks and structure of both institutions.

12. In the light of General Assembly resolution 48/111 (operative paragraph 2), the Board expressed its readiness to contribute to efforts for a better interaction among INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the regional commissions. With that purpose in mind, the Board recommended that a consultative meeting of those entities and bodies be convened to determine the lines of integration and interaction to be established amongst them prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

13. Taking note of the ongoing efforts to stimulate the Economic and Social Council in pursuance of a stronger, more unified programme for the advancement of women, the Board recommended that the issue of governance related to the proposed integration of INSTRAW and UNIFEM be given special attention so as to ensure the political visibility of research, training, information and operational activities for the advancement of women.

14. The Board expressed the view that some core funding from the regular United Nations programme budget should be considered in the future as a means of ensuring a continued strengthening of research, training and information activities in order to better assist women in meeting new challenges and advancing in new directions.

15. The Board advised that any decision taken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the question of integrating INSTRAW and UNIFEM should take into account their activities in relation to the Fourth World Conference on Women in such a way that those activities would not be interrupted.

16. In order to secure the monitoring of the process of integration, the Board requested its President and the members of the former task force on the merger to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours.

(b) New directives and future thrusts of INSTRAW programmes

17. The Board noted that the conceptual framework of former and current INSTRAW work programmes were in accordance with the draft Platform for Action considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex).

18. The Board emphasized that research, training and information remained crucial to the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action that would emanate from the Fourth World Conference on Women.

19. The Board reiterated that every effort should be made to take part in and provide support for the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

20. The Board recommended that special efforts be made to present the work of INSTRAW to the broadest possible constituency in the preparatory process of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

21. The Board stressed that future research, training and information activities should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes that contributed to the advancement of women.

22. The Board stressed that bringing women-related issues into the mainstream of the development process should change in a fundamental way the nature of that process, which ought to centre to a greater degree on the needs and aspirations of all human beings.

23. The Board emphasized that future research and training efforts should be geared to making a meaningful contribution to discussions on mainstream development issues, such as structural adjustment, human development, institution-building and the transition to market-economies so as to contribute to conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches.

24. The Board emphasized that the Institute should continue its efforts to develop innovative training packages in identified areas of concern based on the main themes of INSTRAW research so as to support training programmes world wide.

25. The Board stressed that networking with focal points, national machineries, mainstream institutions and non-governmental organizations should continue to be the central operational principle of integrated programmes. The widest possible outreach of results should be secured in cooperation with the communication of non-governmental organizations.

26. The Board affirmed that information and communication remained crucial for disseminating information on women and development issues world wide.

3. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995

27. The Board welcomed the submission of the programme of activities for the entire biennium 1994-1995 in view of the crucial role that the INSTRAW mandate on research and training must play in the preparation of and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. In view of that particular role, the Board drew the attention of the Economic and Social Council to a number of amendments made to the proposed programme of activities and programme budget, which would strengthen the process of preparation for the Conference at the global, regional and national levels.

28. Those amendments had been made on the understanding that established overall budget estimates would not be exceeded. However, the Board especially requested the Comptroller that while allocating funds for the year 1994, necessary flexibility be exercised in the issuance of allotments in order to facilitate the task of the Director of the Institute in undertaking preparatory actions for the Fourth World Conference on Women. In particular, if additional requirements arose during 1994, those should be authorized within the overall ceiling of the approved budget proposal.

29. With a view to ensuring the maximum utilization of available resources, the Board requested INSTRAW management to coordinate its proposed activities with UNIFEM whenever possible, particularly in the subprogramme related to information, communication and documentation. Such programme coordination should also include other entities within and outside the United Nations system.

30. The Board made a strong appeal to donor countries to maintain and increase their levels of contributions to the research and training activities of the Institute, irrespective of future institutional arrangements.

31. In relation to the programme on advisory assistance and training, the Board advised that that programme be assigned a preparatory function for the Fourth World Conference on Women and also recommended that its resources be used to organize a workshop on women, communication and the media at the non-governmental organization forum at the Conference.

32. All programmes related to research and training in statistics should continue to be closely coordinated with the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat and UNIFEM in order to make maximum use of existing resources.

33. The Board recommended that the programme related to women, the management of natural resources and the environment be coordinated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Bank projects and focus on identified knowledge gaps.

34. The Board authorized INSTRAW management to meet the request of the Government of Namibia that it organize a training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation. The Board recommended that efforts be made to meet complementary financing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United

Nations Secretariat. The Board also recommended that modest funds be allocated to securing inter-agency cooperation and policy coordination in that field.

35. The Board recommended that the subprogramme on information, communication and documentation be implemented in close cooperation with UNIFEM. Some innovative solutions on public information policy should be sought, including in-kind contributions to secure translations and a wide dissemination of public information material. The Board recommended that the maximum use of INSTRAW printing facilities be considered by both INSTRAW and UNIFEM.

36. Periodic publications should reflect global programmes of the United Nations, such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. Full cooperation with INSTRAW focal points should be sought.

37. In the light of the Board recommendations on the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger (agenda item 5 (a)), the Board recommended that appropriate resources be made available for both its involvement in the process of integration and the activities of the Strategic Planning Committee.

38. The Board requested that the INSTRAW management make some provision within travel allocations for the participation of the President of the Board and members of INSTRAW staff at the regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women and at the Conference itself.

39. The Board recommended that the subprogramme on research and training and the empowerment of women be reformulated so as to accommodate consultative meetings on interaction with institutions that focus on women's issues, including the regional commissions. Output 1 was to be completed during the first three quarters of 1994. Prior to implementation, that output should be reviewed in order to avoid possible duplication.

40. The Board recommended that the programme on gender impact analysis of credit projects focus on the impact on women and development, taking into account previous INSTRAW studies and making use of existing studies and experiences, which might involve not only a reduction in resource requirements but more importantly a more effective use of those analyses and experiences.

41. As to the programme on the promotion of women and development studies, the Board recommended that one of the regional seminars be held in the Arab region in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and further requested that the necessary redeployment of resources be ensured.

42. The Board recommended that the second phase of the programme on the promotion of women in agriculture in transitional East European countries be reformulated so as to include issues related to economic transition and its effects on women in various countries and regions. The Board urged that allocated resources be used for programme reformulation and that additional funding be sought.

43. The Board recommended that regular public information activities focus on adequately presenting INSTRAW achievements in order to enhance its visibility throughout the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and during the Conference itself. As for bibliographical systems, the Board recommended that, before taking up that programme, an overview be made of existing database systems within and outside the United Nations and that special inquiries be made into the accessibility of those systems.

44. The Board expressed its serious concern at the considerable increase in the rent of its support office in New York. It requested the representative of the Secretary-General to look into the matter with a view to guaranteeing that the most favourable treatment be accorded to women's programmes within the United Nations and to report back to the Board.

45. Having carefully reviewed the proposals of the special programmes, the Board appealed to prospective donors to provide financial support. A special appeal was made to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the programme on women and new and renewable sources of energy.

4. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute

46. The Board approved the nomination of two new focal points, the Centre de recherche, de documentation et d'information sur la femme in Tunisia and the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales del Departamento de Sociología of the University of Uruguay.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1993: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE

47. In considering item 4 of the agenda, the Board had before it a report entitled "Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW): report of the Director of the Institute" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.2).

48. The Acting Director introduced the report. She commended the work accomplished by the former Director and the Chief of the Research and Training Unit during the period under review and particularly acknowledged their efforts to maintain the level of financial contributions to INSTRAW. She then outlined the progress made in the five major research programmes. She highlighted the INSTRAW methodological study on female migration and noted its relevance to the World Summit for Social Development as well as the importance of developing a typology of credit programmes that could contribute to promoting small, medium and family entrepreneurship throughout the world. She referred to the two project proposals that had been submitted to GEF for funding and to the development of new gender training materials produced by INSTRAW. She stressed the need for a wider promotion of INSTRAW work and dissemination of its results, in which the members of the Board could play an important role.

49. The Board commended the secretariat of the Board and the staff of INSTRAW for having produced a progress report that was well organized, concise and informative. They acknowledged that the suggestions made by the Board at its thirteenth session had been reflected in the presentation of the report. Similarly, the Board unanimously expressed its satisfaction with the work done by the Institute during the period under review; it officially recognized the contributions and work of the previous Director and suggested that a formal letter of appreciation be sent to her.

50. Referring to the comment of the Acting Director of INSTRAW on the promotion and dissemination of INSTRAW publications and training materials, the Board requested the INSTRAW secretariat to prepare and present to it at its fifteenth session a paper outlining a distribution scheme of INSTRAW research outputs and studies that would result in a greater accessibility and visibility for INSTRAW work. Various possibilities for a wider dissemination should be explored, including the use of INSTRAW focal points and well-known commercial publishing companies. One Board member indicated that another potential channel for disseminating information on INSTRAW and its work could be regional/subregional training seminars, such as the ones conducted during the period under review. Another suggested that the Institute consider disseminating information on INSTRAW itself through television networks.

51. Clarifications were sought on the focus of INSTRAW research and evaluation methodologies. It was explained that INSTRAW research programmes went beyond fact-finding exercises and aimed to develop new methodologies that could be applied at the country level. The Board was informed that several approaches had been developed and applied in evaluating INSTRAW training activities. For example, evaluation for the training seminars on water and energy included both pre- and post-evaluation questionnaires and monitoring six months to one year after completion of the training seminars. Another approach was applied in the statistics programme by means of a follow-up seminar at the regional level that brought together participants from previously organized training seminars held at the national level in the region, such as the one conducted in Asia (Japan, 8-25 March 1994).

52. Concerning the migration study, one Board member suggested extending the study to evaluate the consequences of a specific migration in the Caribbean for some of its receiving countries and to measure its impact on the socio-economic situation of those countries. Similarly, another member requested that women's migration in Europe and other regions due to wars and economic crises be analysed, since the trafficking of women was one of its major consequences.

53. INSTRAW was congratulated on its substantive inputs into the second edition of The World's Women, which was being prepared as one of the main documents for the Fourth World Conference on Women, and was especially praised for its contribution on elderly women. In that connection, the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat informed the Board that the cooperation between INSTRAW and the Statistical Division had been most beneficial and had resulted in the mutual strengthening of the programmes of both bodies. She also referred to the long-standing collaboration of the Statistical Division with INSTRAW in evaluating women's work, a task that could

not be performed solely on the basis of existing labour-force and national accounts statistics.

54. One Board member requested further clarification on the status of the planned training workshop for women farmers in transitional European countries. It was explained that the workshop had been postponed for reasons beyond the control of INSTRAW but that assurances had been made that a training workshop on gender issues would take place in 1994. The representatives of ESCAP and ECA requested the Board to consider expanding that programme not only to focus on agriculture but also to analyse other problems that women were facing in countries in transition world wide, such as those relating to economic and social matters. In that connection, speaking on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Acting Director said that 6 of the 22 countries in transition in the ECE region were central Asian republics. Very few such countries had any machinery for dealing with the problems of transition and were in need of assistance in considering women's issues.

55. The UNDP representative informed the Board that UNDP was currently developing national capacity programmes for six Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women. She pointed out that one of its major difficulties was the lack of reliable data on women.

56. Turning to the communications programme, one Board member expressed concern at the difficulty of using the findings of the Latin American project in a training seminar to be organized in Africa and suggested that a separate but similar exercise be launched in Africa, which would yield a comparative analysis. It was pointed out that funds for that specific project had been received from the Italian Government, which had indicated the region in which it should be carried out. Depending on the availability of similar funding support, that project could be replicated in the other regions. It was explained that the venue and objectives for the proposed African seminar were being reconsidered.

57. The Board acknowledged the importance of the gender training materials that had been produced for academic institutions and suggested that the North American experience should be combined and complemented with the experience of the other regions. The need for this wider dissemination and distribution was emphasized. Some Board members expressed an interest in obtaining copies of the computer models that had been developed to assist policy makers in understanding the relationship between certain sectoral policies and the advancement of women. In that connection, the representative of UNIFEM mentioned the strategy that UNIFEM was applying in distributing its materials, which INSTRAW might wish to adopt.

58. The Board members also expressed interest in obtaining a copy of the video that had been produced on basic gender issues, which was intended for an audience with little or no understanding of gender issues. They were informed that the video would be completed and made available by the end of April 1994 and that budgetary provisions had been made for distributing it widely. It would also be made available to focal points and Governments.

59. Turning to the training activities of INSTRAW, one Board member referred to the subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women for francophone African countries, held in Morocco. She explained that its objectives had been fully achieved and that the workshop had provided recommendations for follow-up activities, particularly in relation to the regional preparatory conference to be held in Dakar and the World Conference on Women. She suggested that in the future, observers from other regions should be invited to exchange experiences, thereby enhancing the activity. She further suggested that similar seminars should be organized for the English-speaking African region, a suggestion strongly supported by the representative of ECA.

60. Concerning other activities, some Board members requested further information on the substantive participation of INSTRAW in the International Conference on Population and Development and the International Year of the Family (IYF). Concerning the International Conference, the Secretary of the Board explained that due to both financial and human resources constraints, although INSTRAW had been represented at the preparatory meetings no commitment had been made on substantive issues. As to IYF, the Secretary pointed out that since the Year was not to be marked by a major international conference but rather consisted of a series of activities at the national and regional levels, INSTRAW had prepared substantive inputs, such as (a) devoting the forthcoming issue of INSTRAW News to women and the family; (b) contributing to the information kit on IYF that had been prepared by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat; (c) preparing a concept paper on the family; and (d) participating in the regional conference for Latin America held in Bogotá, Colombia.

61. Several members of the Board stressed the need to strengthen the networking of INSTRAW in order to improve its visibility. It was suggested that awareness services be created in developing countries, particularly by providing INSTRAW publications.

62. The question of establishing more than one focal point in a country, which would reinforce the INSTRAW network with academic institutions, research centres and organizations involved in women's issues, was again reiterated. It was suggested that Board members submit lists of the institutions in their respective countries with whom the Institute might wish to develop a cooperative relationship.

III. ROLE OF INSTRAW IN RESEARCH AND TRAINING - POST BEIJING

1. Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger

63. In reviewing the steps that had been taken concerning the INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger, the President referred to the following documents, which were before the Board for its information: "Note by the Secretary-General on the Task Force on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women" (E/1993/82); "Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council Decision 1993/235" (A/48/591); "Letter dated 11 October 1993 from the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic addressed to the Secretary-General" (A/C.3/48/6); "Note by the Secretariat on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Development Fund for Women" (A/C.3/48/10); Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 of 27 July 1993; and General Assembly resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993. She briefly summarized the various actions that had been taken since the Board had first been apprised, at its thirteenth session, of the proposal made by the special adviser and delegate of the Secretary-General concerning the reform of the economic and social sectors and the possible merging of INSTRAW and UNIFEM.

64. The representative of the Secretary-General reiterated the total commitment of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat to strengthening the effectiveness of women's programmes in order to make them more cohesive and to maintaining the distinct identity of INSTRAW. The Secretary-General was well aware of the contribution that the Dominican Republic had made to that effect and he wished to build on that contribution by ensuring the maximum and most efficient utilization of the local facilities. However, he could not ignore the desire of a number of Member States to see that the cooperation between INSTRAW and UNIFEM be enhanced. The Secretary-General was proceeding on the basis of a specific mandate that called for strengthening the identity of the Institute whilst placing it in the mainstream of development activities relevant to women. He referred to his visit to the host country on behalf of the Secretary-General in February 1994 for an exchange of views between the United Nations and the Dominican Government on the modalities of responding to the implementation of the proposal as called for in General Assembly resolution 48/111. He once again stressed that the mandates and identity of INSTRAW would be maintained, particularly the role of INSTRAW in research and training.

65. The Acting Director elaborated on the important role of research, training and information activities for the advancement of women. She elaborated on a number of forward-looking concepts, particularly in the context of the future need to implement the Platform for Action in the post-Beijing period. She stressed the need to strengthen cooperation within the United Nations system, particularly through joint programming, in order to achieve a greater visibility for and a broader awareness of issues relevant to the advancement of women.

66. The Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat gave a comprehensive overview of the proposed INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger and explained to the Board with the help of

the relevant documents under consideration, the process that the proposal had undergone since the Board had first been apprised of it at its thirteenth session.

67. The representative of the host country pointed out that her Government had not been invited to participate in the Task Force created by the Secretary-General on the INSTRAW-UNIFEM merger and that no formal negotiations between the United Nations and the host Government had so far taken place. She pointed out that the failure of the United Nations to consult with her Government was a discourtesy to her country. The representative also pointed out that it had been suggested that the current INSTRAW facilities be used as a general training centre without the host country being consulted beforehand. She then drew the attention of the Board to the fact that the building had been donated to INSTRAW by the Dominican Republic.

68. The two members of the Board who had represented INSTRAW on the Task Force briefed the Board of the attitude they had encountered at the meeting of the Task Force. One of them recalled that during the thirteenth session of the Board, when it had first been informed of the proposed merger, the Board had received the impression that a decision had already been made to merge INSTRAW with UNIFEM and that the merger was a fait accompli, an impression which had been reinforced during the Task Force meeting. It seemed that the main purpose of the Task Force meeting had been to present the mechanism for integrating INSTRAW with UNIFEM. She pointed out that INSTRAW had prepared for the Task Force meeting all the relevant information on policy, administration and work programme, yet equivalent information on UNIFEM had not been made available. She concluded by saying that the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 1993/235 (A/48/591) gave the impression that the research and training function was being weakened and that the INSTRAW programme would simply disappear.

69. The second Board member pointed out that the report of the Task Force had not been adequately reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, which did not on the whole emphasize the importance of research and training. She proposed that the Board manifest its concern and suggested that it consider further elaborating the institutional options in order to ensure that issues concerning women were more effectively handled within the United Nations system.

70. One Board member expressed her concern at the timing of the proposed merger, in the light of the ongoing restructuring of the United Nations. She pointed out that international institutional arrangements would be discussed at the Fourth World Conference on Women and raised the question whether the proposed merger might be postponed until 1995. She also sought clarification on the possibility of receiving core funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the Institute, should the merger take place and should there be a shortfall of funds. She also inquired how the newly merged body would relate to other United Nations bodies dealing with women's issues. Another Board member pointed out that although information, communication and documentation were important aspects in programmes related to the advancement of women, no mention of them had been made in the current proposal.

71. The Acting Director of INSTRAW explained that the issue of timing and core funding would be decided by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. However, she underlined that the work programme of the Institute would continue to function normally, which had been reconfirmed by the representative of the Secretary-General.

72. The representatives of the regional commissions suggested that, in view of the excellent and fruitful cooperation they had enjoyed with INSTRAW, they would wish to maintain their present ex officio status in whatever new governance might be established for the new entity.

73. The Board suggested that the term "merger" should be replaced by the term "integration", which conformed better with the objective of the exercise.

74. Several Board members complained that they had not been sufficiently informed about the proposed merger and that a crucial meeting of the Board had been considerably shortened. The decision was taken to work in closed sessions during lunch breaks in order to reach a common stand on the recommendations to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

2. Role of INSTRAW in research and training - post Beijing

75. In considering the sub-item, the Board had before it the draft Platform for Action contained in the annex to resolution 38/10 of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1994/27, chap. I, resolution 10, annex), which the Commission had adopted at its thirty-eighth session.

76. The Acting Director introduced the draft Platform for Action and explained that it would be reconsidered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and would be adopted in its final form at the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in September 1995. She presented the 10 major areas of concern addressed in the draft Platform as well as their relationship with the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and corresponding strategic objectives. She emphasized that Board members should develop strategies for integrating INSTRAW research and training and information activities into the framework of the areas of concern reflected in the draft Platform. It was equally important for the Board to consider the draft Platform with a view to deciding how it might reflect the role of research and training.

77. The Board agreed that the issues addressed in the draft Platform conformed with the research and training activities already undertaken and currently being carried out by INSTRAW. The Board recommended that strategies be designed to present those outputs or results of the work of INSTRAW to the World Conference in a more consolidated manner.

78. In order to attain the strategic objectives outlined in the draft Platform for the critical areas of concern, the Board agreed that the need for research, training and information was crucial. The strategic objectives covered all levels of action - governmental, non-governmental, and multilateral - and at

each level fact-finding research and training were necessary in order to secure the strategic action needed to implement the Platform for Action.

79. The Board stressed that in future research, training and information activities, the Institute should continue to develop arrangements for active and close cooperation with the specialized and related agencies of the United Nations, as well as with other organs, programmes and institutions, so as to promote gender-related analysis and programmes. It was important that INSTRAW contribute meaningfully to ongoing discussions of mainstream development issues, such as structural adjustment, human development, institution building and the transition to market economies, so as to contribute to conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches that would result in changes in the nature of the mainstream development process.

80. The representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM informed the Board of the strategies that they had developed in ensuring a more effective participation at the Conference, such as ensuring an effective distribution of publications, sponsoring workshops and discussion panels, and sharing findings on specific research initiatives.

IV. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

81. In reviewing the proposed work programme and budget for the biennium, the Board had before it the following documents: "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.3), and "Conceptual framework for the 1994-1995 work programme" (INSTRAW/BT/1994/BP.1).

82. The Secretary of the Board and the Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat introduced the two documents. The latter explained the general principles and resource and budget assumptions that had been taken into consideration while preparing the document. He underlined that Board members and the Acting Director had the prerogative to make changes and modifications within the budget ceiling of US$ 2,250,000 for 1994. He also pointed out that the programme budget would be reviewed by ACABQ, on the basis of which the report would be presented to the Economic and Social Council.

83. The Secretary of the Board introduced the conceptual framework for the 1994-1995 work programme and explained that it had been prepared in response to the recommendation of the Board at its thirteenth session. She pointed out that, due to the inability to convene the Strategic Planning Committee meeting in 1993, the drafts of those documents had been sent to Board members for their review and comments. The present work programme had therefore been put together taking into account their suggestions and recommendations.

84. Clarification was sought on the proposed abolition of four local-level posts, since, especially in view of the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, more support services would be required. The Board granted the Acting Director the authority to review the need for those posts, according to the work programme to be adopted.

85. The Board indicated that adequate provision of travel allocations should be made for the Strategic Planning Committee and for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including attendance at the five regional preparatory conferences.

86. The Board agreed to the three major themes proposed for the work programme on research and training, which conformed to the central issues addressed in the Platform for Action.

87. A number of Board members acknowledged the importance of theme I, "Empowerment of women". They made some suggestions on how to improve the programme by expanding its focus to include women in politics and decision-making. However, they expressed the view that the research proposed on sustainable macroeconomic strategies in support of micro-level action should be more specific.

88. Considering that numerous seminars had been conducted on the empowerment of women, the Board suggested that in order to avoid possible duplication, a part of those funds could be transferred to activities geared to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

89. In that connection, the Board proposed that INSTRAW organize a panel on women in media. A suggestion was made to organize a workshop on women in media at the non-governmental organization forum in Beijing.

90. In referring to the expert group meeting on the empowerment of women, it was suggested that the funds could be used to organize a consultative meeting between INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Commission on the Status of Women, CEDAW and the regional commissions, in accordance with operative paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/111. The Board unanimously approved that change.

91. The Board also requested some clarification on the status and scope of the programme on gender impact analysis of credit projects. They expressed concern on its seemingly ambitious objectives and envisaged outputs, particularly the conduct of seven case-studies per region. Some of the Board members emphasized that there was a need to include in the approach or research methodology both issues on women's access to credit and the evaluation of the impact of different credit schemes on women and the family. It was pointed out that a number of non-governmental organizations, such as Trickle-up, had undertaken extensive work in that area and INSTRAW should utilize their field experience.

92. Taking into account all those comments and suggestions, the Acting Director indicated that the approach of the programme would be further examined and reformulated. She also acknowledged the suggestion of the representative from UNIFEM to prepare a state-of-the-art publication on the impact of and access to credit by women, which could be a substantial contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women. Hence, some adjustment in the use of allocated funds for the programme would be imminent.

93. One Board member expressed the view that there was a need to organize a seminar for the Arab region. The Acting Director and the Board supported that suggestion and pointed out the importance of organizing such a seminar together

with ECA and ESCWA, either before or immediately after the regional preparatory conference in Amman.

94. A Board member recommended that the syllabuses in the gender training portfolio be expanded to cover all the regions, using the work done by local researchers.

95. Several Board members suggested that the research project entitled "Promotion of women in agriculture in transitional eastern European countries" be expanded to include areas other than agriculture and not be limited to eastern Europe only. The alternative title "Women in economies in transition to market economies" was suggested. The Board supported that recommendation and the Acting Director pointed out that she would contact the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other donors to explore possible funding support. She also requested that the Board seek support from donor countries, since those countries in transition had never previously been recipients of such assistance.

96. The President highlighted the important linkage that existed between the empowerment of women and the consequences of structural adjustment. It was important that INSTRAW collaborate with UNDP in the development and preparation of the 1994 Human Development Report. She requested authorization from the Board to make provisions for possible contributions of INSTRAW to that publication.

97. A Board member suggested that every effort be made by the Institute to seek funds through external support and/or in-kind contributions for translating the gender training materials.

98. The representative of ECA informed the Board that ECA was organizing an encounter with media women to find a common way of portraying a better image of women in media; the meeting would be held before the regional preparatory meeting in Senegal. She pointed out that ECA was looking forward to collaborating with INSTRAW on that activity.

99. Concerning theme II, "Statistics and indicators on women", the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat stressed the importance of using the term "gender" instead of the term "women" when referring to statistics and indicators. She underlined the significance of encouraging and supporting national initiatives in the production of short publications on statistics as well as indicators on gender issues. She also referred to the proposed development of the "how-to" training modules on gender statistics and informed the Board of the relevant initiatives undertaken by the Statistical Division, the Joint Consultative Group for Policy (JCGP) and other institutions working in that area, such as Statistics Sweden. She encouraged INSTRAW to establish close collaboration with those organizations in order to avoid duplication.

100. The Acting Director pointed out that INSTRAW was a pioneer in that area within the United Nations system and stressed the importance of developing training materials in an integrated manner. Moreover, she highlighted the need to further promote the results of such initiatives in such mainstream bodies as

the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians.

101. Under theme III, "Women, environment and sustainable development", the attention of the Board was brought to a request received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development of Namibia, requesting INSTRAW to organize a national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation, in November 1994. The training seminar would be based on the INSTRAW training package on women, water supply and sanitation, and cooperation would be sought with the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat for the holding of the seminar. Furthermore, the Board was informed of the unique mandate of INSTRAW in water and energy as it related to policy coordination in the United Nations system, and of the need to allocate minimum funds for attendance at policy coordinating meetings.

102. The Board supported the training seminar in Namibia and gave authority to the Acting Director to reallocate funds from that theme both for the seminar and for attendance at the policy coordinating meetings on water and energy.

103. One Board member suggested that INSTRAW prepare a training package on women and sustainable development similar to the one on women and water.

104. The Board approved that suggestion and recommended that the training package include waste management, transportation, human settlements and other substantive areas not sufficiently explored. The need to cooperate with UNEP and the World Bank was highlighted.

105. Turning to the section on information, documentation and communication, Board members expressed their satisfaction with the various proposed programme activities.

106. The Board reiterated the need to prepare and present substantive publications at the Fourth World Conference on Women, including exhibits and public information materials (e.g., note cards).

107. The Board recommended that a special issue of INSTRAW News be devoted to the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

108. In view of the possible integration of INSTRAW and UNIFEM and in the interest of saving funds, the Board took note of the suggestion made by the UNIFEM representative that possibilities for issuing co-publications, joint newsletters and translations of materials be explored.

109. One Board member suggested that the New York office be strengthened and the Board inquired about the sudden rise in the rent of the office in New York, which should be carefully looked into.

110. After having discussed the issue of databases within and outside the United Nations system, the Board agreed to reconsider the proposed updating of the computerized database system at a later stage.

111. The Board adopted the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 as amended. It granted the management of INSTRAW the flexibility to shift funds within the approved budget ceiling.

V. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE

112. The Board approved the nominations to become focal points of INSTRAW received from the Government of Tunisia, on behalf of the Centre de recherche, de documentation et d'information sur la femme (CREDIF), and from the Government of Uruguay, on behalf of the Facultad de Ciencias Sociales del Departamento de Sociología, Universidad de Uruguay.

113. The Board discussed the schedule for the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting and determined its composition.

114. Two outgoing Board members expressed their satisfaction with the work accomplished by INSTRAW. They also expressed their continued support to the Institute and wished it success in its forthcoming research, training and information activities. They looked forward to collaborating with INSTRAW.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS FOURTEENTH SESSION

115. At its sixth meeting, on 21 April 1994, the Board adopted the report on its fourteenth session (INSTRAW/BT/1994/R.4 and Add.1-3).

VII. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

116. The fourteenth session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW was held at the Institute's headquarters from 18 to 21 April 1994. The Board held six meetings.

117. The session was opened by Renata Siemienska, in her capacity as President of the Board. In welcoming the members of the Board, she noted that the session was taking place at a crucial moment for INSTRAW. She hoped that the deliberations would consider how its work could best be enhanced in the future. She counselled the Board that in the work of the Institute during the current session, it would be important to elaborate on a framework that could contribute towards the Platform for Action.

118. The representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ji Chaozhu, addressed the Board. He welcomed the new Acting Director and conveyed the Secretary-General's assurance that a high priority would continue to be given to women's issues, particularly with regard to development. He also indicated the Secretary-General's commitment to maintaining and strengthening the INSTRAW mandate. The Secretary-General had affirmed that women's issues should not be marginalized or compartmentalized but should be an integral part of the United Nations overall effort to foster development. In that connection, the Division for the

Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat had been moved to New York in order to establish a closer contact with the other entities of the Secretariat that dealt with development issues. The streamlining effort had focused on establishing more dynamic links between research- and action-oriented programmes. In that respect, the United Nations could greatly benefit from the INSTRAW input. In particular, the Secretary-General looked forward to the contribution that the Board in its current session could make to defining the role that INSTRAW should play in implementing the Platform for Action as well as to determining how it could better respond to the needs of women.

119. An opening statement was made by Jacqueline Malagón, Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic and ex officio member of the Board representing the host country. On behalf of her Government, she welcomed the Board and emphasized the importance that her Government attached to the issue of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. Although her Government supported the Secretary-General's effort to streamline the United Nations in the interest of economy and efficiency, it felt that the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM must be examined carefully to see if it would in fact advance those ends. She referred to General Assembly resolution 48/111, which had requested ACABQ to report on the proposed merger and its consultations with her Government. She expressed her Government's wish that those consultations and the ACABQ recommendations should lead to a solution in the best interests of the Dominican Republic, the United Nations and above all the advancement of women. She emphasized that as one of three entities within the United Nations system responsible for the advancement of women, INSTRAW had a special role to play in undertaking research and development training materials that could contribute to international conferences. To fulfil that role, she indicated that INSTRAW needed the support of both Member States and the Secretariat. She hoped that that support would be forthcoming and that the next session of the Board would see a revitalized and strengthened INSTRAW. She assured the Board that her Government would do everything in its power to make that happen and to continue to serve as the host to INSTRAW.

120. The Acting Director of INSTRAW made a welcoming statement. She pointed out that INSTRAW was facing a crucial moment in its history. She referred to the series of important United Nations conferences to be held during the 1990s, all of which focused on the needs of human beings. In that context, it was necessary to ensure that women's concerns were fully addressed at those conferences. It was also important to recognize the essential role played by research and training in enabling women to meet the new challenges facing them. In conclusion, she felt confident that it would be possible to achieve that task and that the Board would be able to contribute to achieving that objective.

B. Attendance

121. The following members of the Board attended the session: Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan), Fátima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco), Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain), Aida González Martínez (Mexico), Noelie Kangoye (Burkina Faso), Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Amara Pongsapich (Thailand), Els Postel-Coster (Netherlands), Gail Saunders (Bahamas), Renata Siemienska-Zochowska (Poland) and Kristin Tornes (Norway).

122. The following ex officio members of the Board also attended: the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services (representing the Secretary-General), representatives of ESCAP and ECA, the representative of the Dominican Republic, the host country of the Institute, and the Acting Director of the Institute.

123. The Director of the Division of Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Secretariat attended the session.

124. A representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat also attended the session.

125. Representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM attended the session.

C. Election of officers

126. At its first meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Els Post-Coster (Netherlands)

Vice-President: Amara Pongsapich (Thailand)

Rapporteur: Ihsan Abdalla Algabshawi (Sudan)

D. Agenda

127. At its 1st meeting, the Board proposed the inclusion of a sub-item "Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger" to agenda item 5 of the provisional agenda "The role of INSTRAW in research and training post-Beijing". The Board adopted the following agenda as amended:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Election of officers.

4. Implementation of the work programme for 1993: progress report on the Institute.

5. The role of INSTRAW in research and training post-Beijing:

   (a) Information on the current status of the proposed INSTRAW/UNIFEM merger.

6. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

7. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.

8. Adoption of the report of the session.